

William Bradford – Eastham Land Records 1650-1745

William Bradford arrived on the Mayflower at age thirty. After the death of Governor John Carver in 1621 Mr. Bradford was elected Governor. He was re-elected to the same office thirty times for a total time in office of thirty-three years until his death in 1657 in Plymouth. He made all the major decisions in the early years of the Colony.

1653

William Bradford, Thomas Prince and other partners purchased a large tract of land from Wono and his son Sachamus, Sachems of Sautucket. The record refers to “lands, ponds, brooks, swamps, timber, etc”. The purchase must have included hundreds of acres. PDF A226.

Note that all following land grants were recorded after William Bradford’s death.

1659

Granted to William Bradford five acres for a house lot above Fort Hill next to the Common and next to land of Nicholas Snow and John Smalley. It was along the highway to Steven Wood’s house with thirty-six feet left for the highway. PDF A130, M184, S15.

Granted to William Bradford one and one-quarter acres of meadow next to the five acres granted for a house lot. PDF A130, M184, S15.

Granted to William Bradford forty acres of upland for a great lot at Barley Neck. Bounds were indicated by marked trees. The land was next to a marsh and a swamp and near a cove. PDF A130, M185, S16.

Granted to William Bradford two acres north of the meadow of John Smalley and next to land of Richard Higgins. Bounds were indicated by stakes, a rock and a pine tree. PDF A130, M185.

Granted to William Bradford two acres of meadow at the mouth of Herring Pond Brook. The land was next to land of Richard Higgins and Nicholas Snow. PDF A130, M185.

Granted to William Bradford six acres of meadow at the Cove at the Harbor's mouth and running to the head of the Creek. The land was lawfully possessed by Richard Higgins. Bounds were indicated by marked trees. PDF A130, M185.

This record indicates that after William Bradford's death land owned by him was purchased by Manaseth Kempton and given to the Church. PDF M97.

1665

Granted to William Bradford four acres of meadow at Nauset Field a little beyond Lieutenant Island. Bounds were indicated by marked trees. PDF A130, M85, S29.

Granted to William Bradford twelve acres of upland near Lieutenant Island. Bounds were indicated by marked trees. PDF A130, M85, S29.

1666

Granted to William Bradford a small parcel of land at Namskaket. The grant was one of eleven grants covering six acres of upland and two acres of meadow. PDF A229.

1677

Granted to William Bradford meadow on the southerly side of Great Namskaket at the first turning of the creek and bounded by land of Thomas Prence and Nicholas Snow. This was one of eleven grants in the area. PDF A237, M207.

Granted to William Bradford one and one-half acres of broken marsh ground on the southerly side of Namskaket River. It was next to land of Experience Mitchel and John Howland. PDF A237, M208, S58.

1680

This is a recording of deeds related to the 1653 land purchase from the Indians. Land the Purchasers bought from the Indians at Satucket and Namskaket was partially distributed in ten lots. Willam Bradford received one-half share of the third lot. Edward Bangs received the other half share. The lot ran was near a guttery swamp and ran southerly six acres in length into the woods. PDF A227, M37, S104.

1680

Land outside the Indian bounds which extends from the sea side and little pond eastward to a marked red oak and then northward to a marked tree is granted one-half to William Bradford and Thomas Prence and the other half to Joseph Rogers. PDF A227, M38.

1687

Granted to William Bradford two acres of meadow at Blackfish River next to land belonging to Josiah Cooke. PDF A130, M186.

The land owned by William Braford described in these records amounts to about eighty acres. By 1745 only one other Bradford received an Eastham land grant.